

REMARKS

Claims 5-14, 16-21, 26-33, 35-50, 52-53, 55-63, 66-87, 90-95, 97-99, 103-130 have been canceled, without prejudice or disclaimer in view of the Examiner's request that the number of claims be reduced to six (6) independent and twenty (20) total.

Favorable consideration is respectfully requested for Claims 1-4, 15, 22-25, 34, 51, 54, 64-65, 88-89, 96, 100-102.

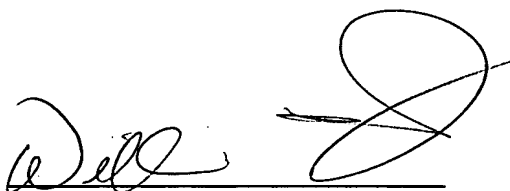
While having a telephone conference with the Examiner on April 4, 2006, she suggested that once the examination of the remaining twenty (20) claims has been accomplished, any continuation or divisional applications filed, based upon these claims being currently canceled, would be made a part of her expedited "special docket."

Additionally, the applicant requests that the Examiner's request that the claims be grouped "according to what he believes to be distinct inventions," be deferred until further along in the prosecution of these 20 claims.

Respectfully submitted,

April 19, 2006

Date

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'William E. Johnson, Jr.', written over a horizontal line.

William E. Johnson, Jr.
THE MATTHEWS FIRM (Customer #021897)
Reg. No. 22,719
2000 Bering Drive, Suite 700
Houston, Texas 77057
(713) 355-4200 Telephone
(713) 355-9689 Facsimile